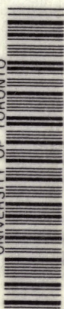


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History of the
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HISTORY OF THE OVENS



Story of the 1861 Gold Rush

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The Historical data in this booklet was obtained from the Public Archives at Dalhousie University, Halifax; from Dr. Desbrisay's History of Lunenburg County; and from tales handed down from the older generations to the younger who still live at the Ovens.

Special thanks are extended to the officials in charge of the Public Archives, who were particularly helpful and interested.

J. OSCAR YOUNG.

The OVENS are situated on a peninsula a mile and a half in length, three-quarters of a mile in breadth, distant five miles by water and eleven miles by land, from Lunenburg, and have long been objects of attraction to visitors in this section of the country.

Through the centuries, the changes that occurred in the crust of the earth, and the action of storm and seas, created the deep caverns worn in the sides of the steep, rocky cliff. The largest of these caves is eighteen feet in height and forty feet in length. There are ten large caves and several smaller ones which front the OVENS PARK.

Of these the two most interesting are the fabled "oven" by which, it is said, an Indian entered and made his way to Annapolis, and the "blow hole" which has a small entrance, so that the outrushing air and water cause spectacular sights and sounds during a storm.

This territory was the home of the MicMac Indians, but after the country was given to the English by the Treaty of Utrecht, in 1713, first French settlers from Cape Breton, and later German and Swiss settlers came to this site. The name by which the Park was then known was Drum Head.

The first recorded deed of the Park is a plan dated 1770. It was deeded from Adam Fleek to Abraham Muller in 1758, and then to Rev. Jean Baptiste Moreau in 1758. Rev. Father Moreau was the appointed missionary for the Propagation of the Gospel and he accompanied settlers to Lunenburg where he served for 17 years.

The Park lands were deeded to various people as the years went by, and in 1784 a grant was made to Caspar Meisner of 535 acres, and to John Meisner of 660 acres at the Indian Ovens. The grant for this land is now possessed by the present owner of the Park, and bears the great seal of George III. Also, a copy of the translation of the passport by Frederick Karl, Prince of

Stolbert, Earl of Koenigastein, Germany to Caspar Meisner, his wife Anna Elizabeth, three sons, John, John Conrad, John Caspar, three daughters, Anna, Anna Barbara, and Anna Margaret, dated April 22, 1751, is owned by Mr. Young, the proprietor of the Ovens Park, and may be seen at the Pavilion Museum.

The northern side of the peninsula "is a ridge formed chiefly of quartzite and slate" and its southern side "is principally composed of metamorphic slate containing thin seams of quartz." It was the discovery of a three-quarter inch thick vein of gold-bearing quartz on the "bluff" by James Dowling, Esq. in June, 1861, and the finding of gold in the sand on the shore in July, by John Lawson, Esq., then Government Surveyor for the country, that aroused intense interest in the "Ovens".

The following extracts from the entries made at this time by Adolphus Gaetz, Esq., are of much interest, and explain the state of affairs at the Ovens at this time:

"1861.

July 4th - Great excitement in consequence of gold found at the Ovens. Beautiful specimens.

July 16th - About 100 gold hunters arrived.

July 22nd - Ovens attracting attention of whole Province.

August 2nd - Within few days gold discovered in sand at sea shore. Some taken up by a lad of this town, of value two dollars. A young lady picked up two or three dollars' worth.

August 3rd - Messrs. Howe, Anderson and Archibald came to settle disputes.

August 6th - Steamer "Osprey" arrived, with workmen, lumber, etc.

August 9th - Whole talk is gold, gold, gold. Excitement intense..

August 10th - Steamer "Neptune" arrived with 75 passengers. Packet from Halifax with 104 arrived.

August 31st - Upwards of 600 now at work. Shanties erected, and grocery shops and restaurants opened.

Sept. 3rd - One Crowell took a nugget from his claim valued at \$26.

December 12th - Rich specimens found.

1862

April 14th - Schooner "Lion" from Eastport, with 20 passengers for Ovens.

April 16th - Schooner "Alma" from Boston, with 16 passengers for Ovens.

May 12th - Two vessels from United States, with large number for Ovens, becoming quite a town.

June 9th - Governor —Earl of Mulgrave— landed at Ovens from a gunboat.

August 12th - Arbitration between land proprietors at Ovens and Government, to settle disputes under an agreement made by them. Attorney-General for Government and John W. Ritchie for proprietors.

August 15th - Proceedings closed. Award in favor of proprietors."

Other stories of the excitement and the action that followed the discovery of gold are best told by articles from the Halifax "Morning Chronicle", by copies of the letters written by Mr. William Cunard, by Joseph Howe, Esq. by the reports from the Gold Commissioners Office, and other information that follows, a great deal of which was supplied by the Public Archives, Halifax.

THE MORNING CHRONICLE — HALIFAX, N.S.

August 3, 1861.

Great excitement has prevailed in the neighborhood of "The Ovens", Lunenburg, of late. A discovery that the sands of the Beach were richly impregnated with gold, brought together a number of persons, and news reached the City on Friday that serious difficulties had occurred, or were apprehended, and that certain persons had forceably expelled others claiming priority of possession, etc.

The Government adopted the promptest measures to rectify any disputes occurring by obtaining from Admiral Milne the use of the schooner Nimble, which was immediately placed by His Excellency at the disposal of the Executive. The Hon. Mr. Howe, the Attorney General, the Receiver General and the Hon. Mr. Locke, with the Commissioner of Crown Lands, left by this steamer early on Saturday morning for Lunenburg, and returned on Sunday evening.

The difficulties had been greatly magnified and order was restored forthwith; regulations were prepared and issued, and all parties were left harmoniously engaged in their new occupation.

Among others William Cunard, Esq., visited "The Ovens" by the Nimble, and returned with the party. The Beach washings are yielding very abundantly. One man, by the crudest machinery, washes an ounce of gold a day, out of the sand on the sea side.

Lots are laid off 30 x 33 feet. Mr. Cunard, we understood, took up 70 lots, mostly in the rear, paying at the rate of five pounds each as a yearly rental. He returned home with the party on Sunday evening, bringing some beautiful specimens about the size of what is commonly called buck shot, only flattened and all kinds of shapes, more resembling slugs than shot. We saw a small phial of these, heavy as so much quick-silver, in Mr. Cunard's possession, gathered by himself, though somewhat intermingled with dust and gravel. Last evening Mr. Cunard left again with one of his own steamers fully equipped for operations. A house frame 20 feet square, all fitted had been prepared on Monday. A picked set of men, a dredging machine, and every imaginable appliance all on board, left yesterday, the 5th, for "The Ovens". Mr. Cunard was personally in charge.

About 150 men are busy at these diggings and washings, and 200 lots have already been disposed of. From the lay of the land, it is supposed that these rich washings and deposits extend for fully a couple of miles along the coast.

There seems to be no longer room for doubt of the value and richness of the gold deposits in Nova Scotia. The mines at Tangier, which is perhaps, sixty or eighty miles distant from "The Ovens" are said to be doing well.

This sudden expedition of Mr. Cunard, son of the enterprising Sir Samuel Cunard, and agent of the steam line at Halifax, gives a significance to gold-mining in Nova Scotia which will have its effect abroad.

We wish Mr. Cunard, and all engaged, entire success in their new enterprise.

MORNING CHRONICLE — HALIFAX,

Thursday, Aug. 15/1861

His Excellency, the Lieutenant Governor, accompanied by Admiral Milne, General Trollope, Colonel Sinclair, Honorables J. McCully, W. Annand, and B. Wier, paid a visit to "The Ovens" Gold Mines in H.M.S. Nimble, on Monday and after a personal inspection of the placier and quartz diggings and the adoption of some new mining regulations returned to town on Tuesday afternoon.

The placier or shore claims, which are not turning out so profitable as was at first expected, are, we understand, to be sold at \$20 each, cash down, in the order of application, and any remaining unsold at the end of a week will be disposed of at public auction.

The price of quartz claims has been fixed at \$20 each, \$5 to be paid when the lot is first applied for and the remaining \$15. at the end of three months.

The washings at the Ovens, which are of very limited depth, from the shore to high water mark, will probably be exhausted in the course of 5 or 6 weeks, and the sooner the better, for all the space along shore will be required for the debris of the quartz excavations above, should mining operations be carried on extensively, as we believe it will.

That gold in considerable quantity exists in the numerous quartz veins at Lunenburg is sufficiently proved by the experiments already made and the fact that all the scale gold found upon the shore came originally from the veins.

We believe that mining operations directed with skill can hardly fail to be profitable at the Ovens, but no large return—we might safely say no return at all — can be expected until after a considerable amount of capital has been expended. To think of poor men, without means or credit, making fortunes by gold digging in

quartz is simply ridiculous. It has never been done in other countries, and in Nova Scotia is not at all likely to prove an exception to the general rule.

The following are extracts from a letter written by Joseph Howe to the Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, The Earl of Mulgrave, in 1861:-

Provincial Secretary's Office,
Halifax, N.S.

Sept. 4th, 1861

My Lord:-

The Gold discoveries in this Province having not only furnished employment to hundreds of its inhabitants for some months past, but now having attracted the attention of capitalists in England, and of the laboring classes at home and abroad, it becomes desirable that the Government of Nova Scotia should furnish, in some official form, some information as shall guide those who may desire to invest either labor or capital in our mines. Your Excellency having assigned this task to me, I enter upon it with a design to state the facts, in the order in which they have accumulated, without color or exaggeration. There are too many profitable employments in this Province to make it desirable to lure people to one that may be unprofitable, or even doubtful; and I am well assured that your Lordship has no desire to attract immigration to our shores by statements that are unfounded, or arts that have elsewhere produced much misery and disappointment.

In June gold was discovered in the County of Lunenburg, about 60 miles to the westward of Halifax. A peninsula, which forms the western side of Lunenburg harbor and which stretches from the Shire town of that name for 5 miles into the Atlantic, terminates in a bluff promontory about forty feet high, with steep cliffs on

the eastern side with another bay beyond.

The average breadth of this peninsula is about half a mile. The bluff promontory occupies about half of this distance and presents to the sea a frontage worn into waves, popularly called the "Ovens" and which resemble those, though not so extensive, around the Giants Causeway in Ireland.

The quartz veins run in all directions through the promontory; and are visible to the naked eye without labor.

These and the circumjacent soil were discovered to be auriferous in June and a great number of persons rushed in and staked claims. Though single lots were taken up by a good many, it was evident that the experience gathered at Tangier had taught the value of combination. Companies were formed, and large areas applied for.

Three or four with adequate capital and a highly respectable directory, have been organized and are now preparing to test the resources of the peninsula by an adequate expenditure.

While attention was generally directed to the upland, Mr. John Campbell, a gentleman of considerable science, with a natural turn to geological researches, rightly judging that as the cliffs, with the quartz veins running through them, had been for ages, washed and crumbled by the sea, gold might be found among the sands which surrounded the sea shore, tried the experiment, was successful beyond his hopes and immediately applied to the Deputy Surveyor, who had taken charge, for that portion of the shore which immediately adjoins the "Ovens".

As soon as the auriferous character of the sands upon the sea coast was known, then was much excitement.

Everybody rushed from their upland claims and began to scramble for the treasure over which, strange

to say the farmers in the district had gathered sea manure for more than a century without dreaming of its existence.

With some difficulty the excitement was allayed, the rights of all parties, acquired by discovery or occupation, were respected, the report of the Deputy Surveyor being taken, in all cases, by the Government, as the basis for the adjustment of claims. Your Excellency visited Lunenburg and a simple code of regulations was framed by the Council, with the aid of your observation and experience. All is now tranquil at the Ovens; companies are preparing for systematic operations and individuals are working their separate claims with cheerfulness to order.

The shore washings have proved very rich. Mr. Campbell, having associated himself with William Cunard, Esq. and Mr. R. G. Fraser, proceeded to work the 4 shore claims, which formed the frontage of some 70 upland lots taken by this Company in the rear. Though no accurate return has been given by these gentlemen, there is every reason to believe that a very large sum has been taken from these shore claims within a month, and the rights of those three gentlemen have since been sold to a large Company for 1200 pounds, they retaining all that had been obtained up to the day of sale.

Others, who obtained shore lots, have also been very successful, the richness of the sands diminishing as the shore recedes from the cliffs. The uplands claims have yet only been worked in the rudest way. No shafts have been sunk to any depth, nor is there any quartz crusher on the ground.

The facilities for mining at the "Ovens" are very great. Every part of the Peninsula is accessible by water. Provisions and stores can be landed on either side of it and quartz can be shipped with equal ease.

A Deputy Surveyor is the only officer maintained by the Government at the "Ovens."

There is no stipendiary magistrate and no police, no arms are carried or required. Crime is unknown, and property is as safe on the road or at "the diggings" as it is in the shire town.

I have the honor to be,

My Lord,

Your Excellency's most obedient,

Very Humble Servant,

Joseph Howe

His Excellency

The Right Honorable

The Earl of Mulgrave

Lieutenant-Governor, Sc., Sc., Sc.

Taken from THE HALIFAX MORNING CHRONICLE
—1861

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 4, 1861

Mr. Editor:

I have been absent for a few days to Cape Breton, and find on my return the daily papers prolific, the remarks editorial and otherwise, on the letter I addressed to the Express a short time since, on the subject of the Gold Diggings at the Ovens. It seems almost entirely to have escaped the notice of those, who to use the language of the SUN, "have rushed into print", that at the time I wrote no great progress had been made in opening up the claims, and that with the exception of those taken out by Messrs. Fraser & Campbell, and myself, and an adjoining one belonging to Mr. Benjamin, what had been done had offered, at least as far as could be ascertained, little or no encouragement to continue to work the claims—numbers who from the newspaper reports had been induced to visit the Ovens were returning home disappointed.

On my return from the Ovens to Halifax, I was informed by a resident of the City, who had just come from Windsor, that that town was almost deserted, that farmers and farm laborers were alike starting for the diggings, leaving their crops in the fields, and he said the consequences to the country generally would be disastrous, unless a contradiction was given to the reports, which I was so well aware were altogether exaggerated and untrue.

I was therefore induced to depart from my usual course and to trouble the newspapers with a letter, the contents of which I contend, at the time I penned it, were fully borne out by the facts of the case, as then known, and I am supported in this opinion by the fact that a gentleman well known to this City, who visited the Ovens with me and to whom I showed my letter be-

fore it was published, agreed entirely with the opinions expressed in it, and my views were further corroborated in the Morning Chronicle by some editorial remarks on a visit made to the spot by His Excellency, the Governor-General, and several members of the Government; and to show you my opinion of the value of the claims, I may state that ten days after my letter was written, a person informed me that he had seen £500 taken from our claim in one day. I immediately offered to sell him the whole of the claims upland as well as washing for one so-called day's work say £500, and I afterwards offered it, as is well known, to several other parties for the same sum, but in each of these instances my offer was refused, a refusal which I do not now regret, because since then our washings have proved to be much richer than at first was anticipated.

The Government having confirmed to us the areas we claimed, and to which we were entitled on every principle of impartiality and justice, it was a matter of no consequence to us whether 10 or 10,000 persons went to the diggings; if we had been given all the claims in the locality or had been seeking to increase the area first given to us, there might have been some show of reason in the remarks indulged in, and possibly the inference might have been that I had a design to deceive the public in publishing my first letter, but no one has yet ventured to show what personal object I had to gain in taking the course I did. No one would rejoice more than myself to learn that my opinions were premature and that subsequent efforts have led to the discovery of rich deposits of gold in every claim at the Ovens.

With regard to the reports as to the quality of gold in my possession, I may say that they are much exaggerated. But I need not enter into details on this subject, as they are matters into which myself and others associated with me have alone the right to enquire.

(Signed) William Cunrad.

The following is a letter written by S. P. Fairbanks,
Crown Lands Department, Halifax.

Ovens, 23rd Sept., 1861.

Sir:

The parties who purchased the shore lot, pending the Tramway on the 17th inst. after one day's trial have given it up and addressed the enclosed petition to His Excellency. Please write me what to do in this matter.

Since writing very good specimens of gold bearing quartz have been discovered on the western shore which has made a great demand for claims. From 80 to No. 101 on the Bluff claims are applied for and first installment paid, as I do not recognize any application without the deposit of \$5.00 per claim.

As the harvest is nearly over we had a great many visitors last week which kept me from completing the plans I wished to send you. A good many lots were sold and a good many went away intending to visit us in the spring.

Benjamin sold his two claims joining Cunard's to Mr. Campbell for £500.

S. P. Fairbanks, Esq.,
Comm. Crown Lands.

Names of Parties comprising the "Ovens Gold Mining Company" of Lurenburg, in Twenty five Shares of \$100 each, all subscribed, to be increased as operations may require, First Installment of Twenty Dollars on each share paid.

Names	Shares	Names	Shares
John W. Watson	1	James Foreman	1
H. S. Fort	1	L. J. Weston	1
James G. Aughton	1	Asylum Aughton	1
Wm. M. Harington	1	W. G. Phelps	1
J. no. P. Elliott	1	Peter M. Phee	1

James A. Miron
A. J. Ritchie
David S. Sheppard
Geo. J. Wyld
Gerr. Westham.
Joseph Wier
William Young

Geo. Burton
J. J. Laugel
Langille
Langille
Langille
Langille
Langille
J. Lunnberg



OUR GOLD FIELDS—November 21, 1861.

Now that winter is approaching, a large number of the persons engaged in gold mining in different parts of N.S. are suspending their labors. Many, however, intend working through the winter, and are making arrangements for meeting the cold blasts. There is no doubt that many an industrious man has been disappointed in seeking for the precious article during the past season; but the same reverses have been experienced in Australia and California. That money has been made by a large number there is no question; it is impossible to estimate how much, for two of three of the successful ones will keep their own council; but in some instances sufficient has leaked out to show to the public that gold mining may be made a most profitable business in this Province.

The Cunard Co., as it is called, William Cunard, Esq. being the founder of the Company, has been among the fortunate ones at the Ovens diggings.

The stock consists of twelve shares of \$400 each. Operations by the company were not commenced until late in the summer, from which time until last week there were about a dozen men employed.

One hundred and fifty out of about four hundred bags of rich sand which had been cradled, belonging to the Company, arrived here last week. We have heard it stated that each bag will yield \$400 worth of gold. We cannot vouch for the correctness of this estimate, but one thing we can vouch for, however, - that the shareholders of the Company are in high spirits, and we heard one of them refuse \$1000. for a half share, which cost him \$200.

The leads of quartz at the surface were generally small, being composed of a number of very thin veins. As the depth increased the leads increased in size and richness. Veins of three-quarters of an inch at the sur-

face had increased at a depth of twenty feet to a thickness of five inches.

The Bent Lead about a half mile long was the richest in ores and other leads were Tranenwizer, Tupper, Campbell and McCulloch. Tucker Tunnel was 215 feet long. Wiliam Cunard, the son of Sir Samuel Cunard, owned the first beach claims, hence the name Cunard's Cove.



Granite stone crushing wheels from the first Crusher erected at the Ovens - removed from the original site and placed in the Park in 1960.

Intense excitement brought many people to the Ovens ill equipped to cope with the difficulties that were to be surmounted in order to make profitable returns. Hotels sprung up, stores and dwellings, so that the Ovens took on the aspect of a town very quickly. Equip-

ment for use in mining operations, lumber and supplies for buildings were landed at the beach by rafts towed there at high tide, and unloaded on the receding tide, and conveyed to the building site by ox teams.

Troubles arose between the miners and the land owners but arbitration settled the disputes and work went on pace. But lack of adequate capital and careless expenditures of the funds available, together with the difficulty of obtaining the available gold once the rich deposits on the beaches were depleted brought disappointment and the boom came to an end. Operations were carried on for several years with varying results, but gradually the interest slackened, and before long the first dreams of easy wealth were ended. Work petered out and gradually the miners drifted away and only an occasional prospector worked at the mining site.

However, the official returns from 1851 to 1864, gave 1,282 ounces of gold from the Ovens district, of which over 1,100 ounces were from alluvial washings in 1861, and 1862. These were found in a cove "formed by the rapid disintegration of the slate into which the sand of the shore, and debris of the slate with gold had been collected." The gold appears in "jagged grains and scales, as it had been melted and suddenly cooled." Several nuggets were obtained, the largest was attached to a piece of reddish colored quartz and weighed one and a half ounces.

In 1868 a furnace was assembled for roasting quartz and sand, three boat loads of sand were taken to Swansea, Wales, for washing. In 1870 the largest amount of crushed quartz, 2644 tons were put through the mill, 3171 ounces of gold extracted from 2389 tons of ore.

Following is a report which explains to a great degree the cause of the failure in the mining operations at the Ovens.

CHIEF GOLD COMMISSIONERS OFFICE
HALIFAX, N.S.

August 20th, 1863.

Re: "The Ovens".

The operations in this district during the past year have not been at all satisfactory. In this respect it has differed from every other district, very little work has been done, either in quartz mining, or in washing gold from alluvium. Nearly all the lessees have abandoned their mines either temporarily or permanently.

From a personal examination of the district - a rather cursory one I admit - I cannot think that its auriferous character is so little promising as to account for this singular depression in the mining affairs of the place. Although the Ovens may be less rich than in some of the other districts of the Province, the fact of so large a proportion of gold having been found among the sands of the Beach, where the rocks of the shore have been partially disintegrated by the action of the sea, seems in itself sufficient to prevent such a conclusion.

The error of limiting mining areas to such extremely small tracts in the first instance, no doubt accounts, in some degree, as intimated in my former report, for the discouragement and consequent lethargy of the Ovens mining lessees. This being one of the first Districts in which gold mining enterprises were attempted, the operations there were characterized by many errors which have been, at least partially, avoided in proclaimed districts of more recent origin.

Probably in no other district has there been so large expenditure incurred, consequent upon the gold discoveries as at the Ovens. Unfortunately, the largest portion of this outlay seems to have been incurred in the erection of costly hotels, stores and shops, only a very small

amount has been expended in the introduction and working of machinery and improved apparatus for crushing auriferous quartz and slate, and separating gold from the other substances with which it is usually found associated. Mining could not be carried on profitably under such circumstances, and of course, neither could any other business dependent upon mining profits.

The easily anticipated results of these several causes are an almost total suspension of mining operations at the Ovens. Nevertheless, I am of the opinion that when the Ovens mines come to be judiciously and scientifically worked, they will prove remunerative.

In 1897 an American Company, the Acadian Gold Reduction Company, was formed. A crusher was built, and mining operations started again, and were carried on for about two years. While there were good indications of gold, the expense involved in building the crusher, the blacksmith shop, and accommodations proved too costly, and the enterprise failed.

Again and again prospectors visited the ovens hoping to find enough gold to warrant further operations, but nothing has been done since the turn of the 20th century.

Surprisingly, there was little disorder among the miners. One incident, purely accidental, which caused the death of Mr. James McDonald a record of which taken from the Morning Chronicles follows:

RECENT TRAGEDY AT THE OVENS, LUNENBURG CO.

MORNING CHRONICLE —Dec. 7, 1861.

The Eastern Chronicle of Thursday contains the particulars of the death of Mr. James R. McDonald at the hands of Mr. F. Traunweizer, which recently took place at the Ovens. The following are the most important portions of the testimony given at the coroner's inquest:

"Reuben Tooker, of Yarmouth, sworn: 'I was with Traunweizer this morning in his shop, trying to make a bargain with him for a watch. He said, in reply to something I remarked, that he had not a cent of money with him, but that he had something else about him that was very valuable. Pulling a revolver out of his pocket, he then said he would show me what it could do. During this time two other persons, viz. George Mitchell, and a strange gentleman, came into the shop; we all went out after Traunweizer had loaded the pistol.

I put up a piece of board for a mark to fire at. I think we fired all the loads the pistol contained. Since the accident I have only discovered the revolver to be a six-barrelled one. Traunweizer went into the shop to re-load the pistol, where it was proposed to fire for drinks. We all fired, and the strange gentleman—John Redman—I have since learned to be his name—and myself lost the bet.

Somebody then proposed to fire off for the drinks but Traunweizer said, "You had better pay for it between you, for I will fire the last shot now out of this pistol," which he did as I believed.

We then went to go into the shop, Traunweizer putting the pistol in his pocket. When we got to the door we looked and I saw Mr. McDonald coming toward the shop. I then heard Traunweizer call out in his usual tone of voice, "Hello, Mac; stand off!"—Pulling his

hand out of his pocket, and held it toward deceased, who in return drew his hands out of his pockets and smiled, when I heard the report. All this took place in a few seconds. A second or two after, the deceased gradually fell backward on the ground. I thought he was doing so out of a joke to scare us, but I immediately saw the blood, when I laid my hands upon Traunweizer and said to him, "My God! you have shot the man." He replied, "My God, what shall I do? Send for medical assistance, and call all the people." I ran and took a sheet from his bed, but Traunweizer gave me a pillow, and ran and put it under his head. Deceased gasped once or twice, and never moved a limb after"

(Foreman of the Jury examined witness).

I, upon my oath, believe Traunweizer thought he had fired the last shot out of the revolver. I believed he had, and would have sworn so, it was in my opinion purely accidental, it could not have been otherwise. Deceased was standing about 3 or 4 paces from Traunweizer when I heard the report. I have known both deceased and Traunweizer to have been very intimate friends ever since I have been here (some weeks). After the accident Traunweizer showed much emotion, I thought he would go crazy.

(George Mitchell of Chester sworn): Evidence precisely same as the first witness, with this difference: "I thought there was another charge in the pistol. I said nothing about it to anybody; had not time to say "Be careful" before the report was heard, it was done so quick. I did not know any of the parties intimately; but they appeared as friends.

I feel almost certain it was quite accidental, it could not have been otherwise, under the circumstances. I dare say I would have done the same thing to any of my friends in joke, believing, as I think Traunweizer did, that he had just discharged the last shot out of his pistol. I believe that if any other of Traunweizer's ac-

A NATIVE OF "THE OVENS"
AT THE TIME OF THE
GOLD RUSH
IN 1863.
AND STILL PANNING GOLD
IN 1912.



Mr. James Meisner, who lived at the Ovens during the 1861 rush, and who still panned gold in 1912.

quaintances had come up at that moment the result would have been the same to him as it is to the deceased.

In the early years of the 20th century gold washing along the shore line was carried on by some of the residents of the Ovens. Mr. James Meisner, who had seen the rise and decline of the gold fever was one who continued to work the sand and found enough of the precious flakes to make the labor worth while.

A trip that Mr. Young used to enjoy as a boy, was one to Bridgewater in July or August, to sell the gold that "Uncle James" and he used to cradle and pan from the Beach during the month of June. They would walk to Riverport, take passage on the TRUSTY, and after stopping along the river route half a dozen times to pick up freight and passengers they would arrive at Bridgewater about eleven in the morning, sell their gold at a Mr. Ernst's jewelry store, lunch at one of the old time restaurants, do a little shopping, and then return to Riverport on the TRUSTY, and home on foot. This was considered quite an adventurous day. Some times the gold was sold to a Mr. Powers in Lunenburg, who had gold scales so accurate that they could weigh a pencil mark. In those days gold was valued at about \$20.00 per ounce, and they panned from one to one and a half ounces per year.

The farmers at the Ovens were isolated to a great extent and their community pleasures were rare. One of the high spots of the season was the trip they made taking their cattle to pasture about the 1st of June. Pasturage was secured generally from twenty to thirty miles from home. Two or three farmers grouped together, rounded up the cattle, and leaving home about midnight drove the herd by way of Riverport, up the La-Have River and on to Baker's Settlement or New Germany.

Many a chase these men had when one or more of the cattle decided to turn off the road into an open field,

or into the forest along the way. The trip was made entirely on foot from the Ovens to the pasture land and then back to Bridgewater. There they took passage on the river steamer TRUSTY, landing at Riverport and then home on foot, arriving usually dead tired and with aching feet.

But the trip broke the monotony of the year, and much pleasure was derived from the excursion. Generally the return trip was enlivened by the telling of dreams, omens and ghost stories, which in those days were very popular.

One belief was that if a dream was dreamt three nights in succession it was sure to come true. One story of a dream was often told by Mr. James Meisner. He dreamt that he was directed to take a pick and shovel, leave his home at midnight, after placing a Bible in his bosom, and go up to the Bluff (Now the Ovens Park Trail). There he would meet a dog, which would guide him to a ravine. He was to dig in silence, and would be rewarded by finding a pot of old French or Spanish coins of gold.

The second night the dream was repeated — and who knows—if the next night had not been the one on which the group were to leave for the annual trek to pasture—it might have been the one that came true!

In the meantime the scene of these operations had gradually reverted to its native state. Small cleared farming tracts were surrounded by forests of pine, spruce and fir, so that only the occasional moss-grown pit and the remains of a tunnel here and there indicated that once there had been industry and excitement here.

But the present owner of the Park, a relative of one of the men who had taken a prominent part in the first Gold Rush, Mr. James Meisner, had seen many Parks and camping grounds in the United States. He realized the natural charm and interest of the Bluff, and after much preliminary work the Ovens Natural Park was

opened to the Public in 1935.

At first only the trail along the Bluff was opened, the forests had to be tamed, the underbrush removed, the path protected by railing, the tunnels cleared, the pits uncovered, and marked, and many other precautions taken for the safety of the visitors.

Gradually more land was acquired and cleared. Outdoor fireplaces, and tables for picnickers were provided. Later a canteen was built, and in it was housed a museum with many interesting souvenirs of the mining period. Cabins were built at the crest of the hill overlooking the ocean.

Gradually the Park expanded, and always the unusual and unique attractions were made more accessible to the tourist and camper. One of the simplest and most attractive spots in the Park is the rustic chapel, deep in the midst of the trees. Here a moss covered miner's wall forms part of the chapel, while the pulpit of logs with a simple cross of birch overlooks the quiet sanctuary. Every Sunday during the summer season an afternoon service is held in this Chapel.



The Ovens Park Chapel.

The Ovens Chapel

by M. Elliot

As drifts the sunshine through the green
 Upon this lovely, holy scene,
Send, Lord, Thy peace where peace is meant
 And fill our hearts with thy content.

As on starred mosses 'neath our tread
 May we walk softly where we're led;
Surrounded by the seas' wild will,
 Speak to our hearts Thy "Peace be still."

As this sweet spot 'twixt tree and moss
 Is sanctified by Thy dear Cross,
So bless our lives — though life's seas roar -
 Safe, in Thy love, forevermore.

Amen.

I KNOW A SPOT

by

Hazel F. Goddard

I know a spot where bold Atlantic waves
Caress the fertile fields along a shore
Where Indian legend lurks in seascoped caves,
Reverberating when the wild winds' roar
Whips to a frenzy the frustrated brine
To thunder as a cannon, then be spent
In solemn circles, like a Hand Divine
Unto the sea its majesty had lent.
I know a spot, in awe I've stood alone,
My spirit purged, like morning, chaste and new,
Watched God's own dawning drawing from the stone
Of Cannon Caves an ethereal hue,
And paling at His palette, prayed that He
Preserve forever, this precinct of the sea.



Cunard's Beach, last Gold Crusher in the Background,
built in 1897.

In 1960, the 25th Anniversary of the opening of the Park, found stairways built so that one can explore deep in the heart of Tucker's tunnel and Cannon Cave. A huge block of masonry leads to a cat-walk well out from the mouth of Cannon Cave, so that the adventurous young, or the steel-nerved old, may have an unobstructed view of these inspiring caves.

Further out on the Point a 30-acre lot was opened for Campers and Trailers. Every year some additions and improvements have been made to cabins, and camping spots, and recreation fields, to add to the comfort and pleasure of those who visit the Park.

Today the peace and beauty of this spot provides for the visitor relaxation and inspiration. The seagulls swoop and call along the shore, the gleam of sails is seen across the bay, while the sound of the surf and the rolling sea provides the musical accompaniment.

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Cradeling Gold on Cunard's Beach.

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Young, J

Oscar

History of the Ovens

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